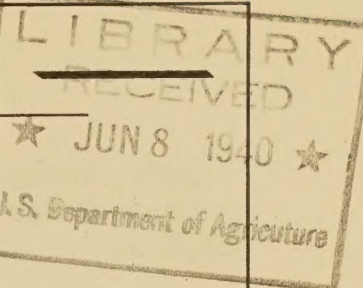


# news letter

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## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

"The Research Program of the Eastern Regional Laboratory" was the subject of an interview given by Dr. Knight over Station WGY at Schenectady, N.Y. on May 3. "This laboratory will serve 16 states," said Dr. Knight, "extending from Tennessee and North Carolina on the south to Maine on the north. We shall seek to develop new uses and outlets for tobacco, dairy products, apples, vegetables, white potatoes, animal fats, tanning materials, hides, skins, and leather, all of which are of economic importance to this section of the country."

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In an interview broadcast over Station WWL, New Orleans, on May 16, Dr. Knight and D.F.J. Lynch, Director of the Southern Regional Laboratory, stated that the laboratory will start studies on three important southern farm crops, cotton, sweetpotatoes, and peanuts, as soon as the laboratory is ready for occupancy sometime in the fall of 1940.

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S. H. McCrory conferred with interested parties at Bismarck, N. Dak. in regard to the work of the International Joint Commission having to do with the regulation and apportionment of the waters of the Souris River.

On May 9 he went to Fargo, Mich. in connection with fiber flax studies and thence to Toledo, Ohio, for a conference regarding pest and plant disease control machinery.

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In April Geo. R. Boyd inspected construction work in progress at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill., and the Western Regional Research Laboratory at Berkeley, Calif. He visited W.M. Hurst at Corvallis, Oreg. and inspected the work under way on fiber flax machinery. He also spent some time in Michigan, Minnesota, and Washington in connection with various agricultural engineering research projects.

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The Agricultural Appropriation Bill as reported out by the conferees has discontinued the work on Dust Explosion and Farm Fires, and the Industrial Farm Products Division's work will be transferred to the regional laboratories' jurisdiction as of July 1, 1940. This does not include the work of the Agricultural By-Products Laboratory



at Ames, Iowa, which is to be continued although the appropriation has been reduced from the \$45,100 requested in the budget, to \$22,550.

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The Board of Review of Efficiency Ratings of the Bureau held its annual meeting May 1 and 2. Its review of the efficiency ratings has been completed and the report, after approval by the Chief of the Bureau will be transmitted to the Office of Personnel of the Department shortly after May 15.

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Mr. Donovan has called a meeting of the Business Managers of the Regional Research Laboratories to be held in Washington during the week of May 20, 1940. It is planned at this meeting to develop uniform procedures and practices in connection with the business administration activities of the four laboratories.

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#### REGIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

H. T. Herrick talked on "The New Regional Research Laboratories of the U.S. Department of Agriculture," before an open meeting sponsored by Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity at the University of Maryland, April 29, 1940.

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W. B. Van Arsdell presented a paper on "The Industrial Utilization of Farm Products," before the Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences of the Eighth American Scientific Congress, on May 14, 1940.

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#### NAVAL STORES RESEARCH

On April 25, C. F. Speh went to Mobile, Ala. for a conference with representatives of Taylor, Lowenstein and Company, regarding gum cleaning and other naval stores problems.

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W. C. Smith visited Newark, N.J. and New York, N.Y. on April 23 and 24 to study difficulties encountered in shipping and handling naval stores.

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Dr. S. Palkin, spent the week beginning May 2 at the Naval Stores Station, Olustee, Fla. for conferences and inspection of the work being done on gum acid fractionation. On May 4, Dr. Palkin attended the meeting of the American Chemical Society at Gainesville, Fla. where he delivered a paper entitled "The Pine Resin Acids -- Some Theoretical and Practical Aspects."

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A public service patent was issued to Dr. S. Palkin on April 23, on "Multiple Filter Devices" U.S. Patent No. 2,198,175.

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C. F. Speh went to Wilmington, Del. on May 8 to discuss, with representatives of the Hercules Powder Company, the preparation of the Annual Naval Stores report.

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#### FARM MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT RESEARCH

R.B. Gray left Washington for Chicago May 17 to attend a conference of the Farm Equipment Institute Committee on Farm Safety. Among the main problems discussed was the tractor power take-off and shielding for protection.

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S. W. McBirney reports that an experimental sugar-beet topper and two different experimental machines for digging ground topped beets were taken to the Imperial Valley in Southern California the middle of May for early season trials. A second topper will be taken down later in May when it is finished. Commercial harvest began there about May 15 continuing through the month.

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W.R. Humphries returned to Washington early in May after having started the fertilizer placement experiments with cannery peas at Geneva, N.Y. While in Geneva a short trip was made to Phelps, N.Y. in company with C.B. Sayre of the Geneva Station to inspect a commercial fertilizer-dispensing attachment for a grain drill.

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During the last week in April G.A. Cumings and L.G. Schoenleber participated in a field trial of fertilizer distributors at Rocky Mount, N.C. and completed planting operations in the fertilizer placement study with tobacco at Florence, S.C. The fertilizer distributors in the field trial consisted of one-mule walking-type machines which have been designed to place the fertilizer in a band at the side of the row for cotton and other crops. It was found that some of the machines which deposited the fertilizer as desired on a flat surface failed to meet the requirements when operating in a furrow.

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W. H. Redit left Washington on May 13 in connection with fertilizer placement experiments with tomatoes, sweetpotatoes, and cantaloupe in the Eastern Shore area of Virginia, Delaware and Maryland.

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T. N. Jones, Agricultural Engineer of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, visited the Tillage Machinery Laboratory at Auburn on May 16. A motion picture camera was loaned to Mr. Jones for obtaining a pictorial record of operations in the production of sweetpotatoes.

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R. M. Merrill visited the annual display and demonstration of power equipment sponsored by the Agricultural Engineering Department at Athens, Ga. on May 10. Tractor manufacturers were well represented and demonstrated tillage tools, planting and cultivating equipment under very adverse conditions. The demonstrations were made on a terraced hillside in very dry and compact soil conditions.

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Mr. Sheldon of the Rototiller Company called regarding a large-size cultivating machine equipped with a 60 horsepower engine which also pulls a 5-foot tiller or harrow. The latter can be disconnected and the tractor used for other purposes. The rototiller does its best work when operated at a ground speed of about 1/2 mile per hour.

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Several inventors visited the Division during April with drawings of war-inspired equipment capable of conversion to peace-time uses.

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### FOOD RESEARCH

E. M. Chace, in charge of the Los Angeles station of the Division, was in Washington for approximately four weeks during the latter part of April and the first of May for the purpose of conferring with Division and Bureau officials relative to the work of his station and others in the Division. While here he made a trip to Amherst, Mass. to attend the meeting of the Research Committee on Fruit Juices of the Glass Container Association. He discussed with members of the Association the fellowship work on fruit juices at the Los Angeles station and its coordination with other research fellowships of that group. Mr. Chace returned to Los Angeles on May 16, via Spokane, Wash. where he will confer with members of the Division carrying on investigational work in Washington State.

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The Eighth American Scientific Congress, which is meeting in Washington at this time, is being attended by Dr. V. A. Pease, who was appointed Official Delegate of the College of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wash.

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Dr. D. K. Tressler of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station visited the Division on May 17, and conferred with R.S. Hollingshead and Dr. H.E. Goresline relative to the work of the Division at the Geneva station. Dr. Tressler was in Washington attending the Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials. Other interesting visitors during the past month were: Dr. William H. Cathcart of the American Institute of Baking, who called on Mr. Hollingshead and members of the Cereal Section; Dr. J. Godston of the American Molasses Company of New York, who was interested in the work on sugars and sirups; Dr. L. A. Hall of the Griffith Laboratories in Chicago, who discussed with Dr. Goresline the sterilization of spices and other food ingredients; and Dr. Oscar Skovholt, Treasurer of the American Association of Cereal Chemists.

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R. W. Riemenschneider read a paper on "Molecular Distillation and Low Temperature Crystallization of Cottonseed Oil and the Stability of the Molecularly Distilled Fractions" at the American Oil Chemists' Society meeting in New Orleans, on May 9-11. He also attended the meeting of the National Cottonseed Products Association in the same city on May 13-14. Both meetings were attended by C.E. Swift, a Research Fellow under the Association mentioned above, who is carrying on investigations in the Division.

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## CARBOHYDRATE RESEARCH

In connection with hearings for formulation of standards under the new federal Food and Drug Act, statements have been filed with the Food Standards Committee of the Food and Drug Administration by consulting baking laboratories and by a number of baking companies in New York City, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh which have been using sweetpotato starch, in support of their contention that this starch should be recognized as a permissible ingredient in bread without necessity of declaration on the label. The statements filed show the advantages obtained as a result of addition of sweetpotato starch in the proportion of 1 to 3 percent on weight of flour. Sweetpotato starch is also being used in cakes and pie fillings. The largest cake-baking company in Philadelphia has been using it for over a year in all cakes produced. An interesting development in this connection is the proposal of a prominent flour-milling concern in Missouri to use sweetpotato starch as an ingredient in cake flours. It has been stated that this practice would be of importance in widening the use of high gluten flours. However, a ruling given to this company by the Bureau of Internal Revenue indicates that wheat flour to which sweetpotato starch has been added would be subject to tax under the "mixed flour" law (Act of June 13, 1898, as later amended).

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G. P. Walton, in charge of honey research, visited a number of the larger baking companies and confectionery manufacturers in Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York City during the week of April 22 for the purpose of consulting members of their technical staffs regarding difficulties encountered in the use of honey in baked goods and confectionery.

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The management of the Warriner sweetpotato starch factory at St. Francisville, La., which was erected in 1939 by private capital, is planning a considerable increase in sweetpotato acreage this year.

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Philadelphia, Pa. business interests have organized a company for manufacture of sweetpotato starch and plan to erect, at an early date, a sweetpotato starch factory based on the development by this Division at Laurel, Miss. This factory will be located in northern Florida.

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In order to facilitate the honey research work of the Division, Lewis W. Parks, Pres., G.B. Lewis Co., Watertown, Wis., and Chairman, Board of Directors of the American Honey Institute, has appointed an advisory committee representing various factors in the honey industry in the United States. The members of the committee are as follows: George P. Walton, Carbohydrate Research Division, Chairman; Mrs. Harriett M. Grace, Director, American Honey Institute, Madison, Wis.; Mrs. Ethel P. Krebs, Past President, National Ladies' Auxiliary, Sacramento, Calif.; Maurice G. Dadant, Dadant and Sons Co., Hamilton, Ill.; Ernest R. Root, A.I. Root Co., Medina, Ohio.

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J.C. Grimes, Head, Animal Industry Group, Agricultural Experiment Station, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala., has transmitted final report of the beef cattle feeding tests in which sweetpotato meal supplied by the dehydration pilot plant at Laurel, Miss., was compared with other southern feeds. The slaughter report of these experimental steers (from Swift and Co., Montgomery, Ala.) showed that the steers which were fed sweetpotato meal gave higher beef yields and received a higher grading average than the other experimental steers. The cattle which were fed sweetpotato meal also showed the best color in the beef. Final reports of the sweetpotato meal feeding tests conducted by the West Tennessee and Georgia Experiment Stations showed a favorable relation between cost and rate of gain in weight in the case of steers which were fed sweetpotato meal. The Georgia Station is now continuing these tests with dairy cattle.

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The Farm Security Administration, which is handling the financing of the Laurel, Miss., sweetpotato starch factory, has prepared the factory's budget for the next operating year. Provision has been made in the budget for installation of an additional starch settling capacity, which is greatly needed for recovering, from centrifuge and table overflow waters, starch that has been extracted but is now lost in process. The factory, which is operated under the technological supervision of the Division, is now owned by Sweet Potato Growers, Inc., an association (incorporated under a Mississippi law) of 1,000-1,200 farmers located in six counties in southern Mississippi. The total value of products (starch and by-product cattle feed) of the factory in 1939 was about \$150,000.

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The Division has obtained some valuable samples of ling heather honey through the courtesy of J. Pryce-Jones, Holnest, Hornsea, Yorks., England, with whom correspondence has been maintained for a considerable period with regard to matters of mutual interest concerning honey. This honey, which is highly regarded in England and Scotland, is notable for its pronounced thixotropic properties, and has been studied extensively by Pryce-Jones, who is one of the leading investigators of thixotropy and related colloid properties. The ling heather grows in Europe from Norway to the Mediterranean, but is rarely found in North America.

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R. S. McKinney, of the Gainesville, Fla., Tung Oil Laboratory, A.F. Freeman of the Bogalusa, La., Tung Oil Laboratory, and W. Gordon Rose of the Tung Oil Solvent Extraction Pilot Plant, Picayune, Miss., attended the meeting of the American Oil Chemists' Society in New Orleans, La., May 9-11.

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H.S. Paine visited the field stations in Baton Rouge, La., Bogalusa, La., and Laurel, Miss., during the first half of May.

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A conference, arranged by T.D. Johnson, Mgr., New Industries Division, Alabama Power Co., was held by H.S. Paine in Birmingham, Ala., May 15, with officials of the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce, the Alabama Power Co., the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., and the Continental Gin Co., who have proffered assistance in accelerating the sweetpotato dehydration work at Laurel, Miss., and particularly in the development of a low cost farm dehydration plant whereby sweetpotatoes can be put in suitable condition to be used for starch manufacture or for feed (to replace corn) at any time desired.

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A conference relative to the cooperative research of this Division and the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, B.P.I., with regard to the tung oil industry, was held May 11 in Bogalusa, La. The following were present: H.L. Crane, G.F. Potter, and Ernest Angelo, representing the Bureau of Plant Industry, and H.S. Paine, R.S. McKinney, W. Gordon Rose and A.F. Freeman representing this Division.

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Among the visitors to the Division were: C.J. Bourg, Vice President, American Sugar Cane League, Washington, D.C.; Arthur A. Schupp, Executive Secretary, Farmers & Manufacturers Beet Sugar Association, Saginaw, Mich.; D. Scrivanich, D. Scrivanich & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; R.H. Chadwick, Sec'y-Treas., J. Supple's Sons Planting Co., Ltd., Bayou Goula, La.; J. A. Ziegler, Secretary, Board of Trade, Florence, S.C.; Marshall Ballard, Jr., United Fruit Co., New Orleans, La.; F.R. Johnson, Salisbury-Johnson Co., New York City; M.X. Wilberding, Wilberding & Palmer, engineers, Washington, D.C.; Wendell Shore, Hamilton & Co., Los Angeles, Calif.; D.V. Wadsworth, Vice Pres., Refined Sirups, Inc., New York City; Joseph Morningstar Pres., Morningstar, Nicol, Inc., New York City; J.R. Weir, Agricultural Research, Ford Motor Co., Detroit, Mich.; H.N. Hansard, Compania Agricola Dominicana, Santiago, Santo Domingo; Elvin H. Killheffer, Legal Dept., E.I. du Pont Co., Wilmington, Del.; Roth Hamilton, Hamilton and Co., Los Angeles, Calif.; P.S. Mathews, State Department of Agriculture, San Francisco, Calif.; Carl F. Huttlinger, Mgr., Refining Division, American Sugar Refining Co., New York City; S. Voris, Loose-Wiles Biscuit Co., Long Island City, N.Y.

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The sugar production pilot plant at the Meridian, Miss., station is being expanded and is being provided with some new equipment in preparation for next season's operation which will begin in July. Experimental lots of sugarcane and sorgho will be supplied by the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, B.P.I., with which this Division is co-operating. E.K. Ventre will be in charge of pilot plant operation. He will be assisted by S. Byall and by J.L. Catlett and H.C. Henry, the two latter having been given temporary appointments covering the period of operation. Mr. Catlett, who has had much experience and has held



positions of considerable responsibility in the cane sugar industry, was Superintendent of Fabrication at Central Berastegui, Cereté, Depto. de Bolivar, Colombia, S.A., during the tropical sugar season which closed the first part of May. Mr. Henry, who is Chief Chemist of the Superior Sugar Company, Menominee, Mich., has been given leave of absence by that company for the period of pilot plant operation.

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M.A. McCalip, in charge, Baton Rouge, La., field station, has resigned, effective June 1, to accept the position of Chief Technologist and Production Manager of the sirup and sugar refinery (formerly the Spreckels Sugar Refinery) of Refined Syrups, Inc., at Yonkers, N.Y. The best wishes of the Division go with him to his new position.

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W.T. Schreiber, in charge, Auburn, Ala., field station, attended the American Chemical Society meeting at Cincinnati, Ohio, April 8-12, and presented a paper by himself and Wm. L. Stafford on "Evaluating Starches." The work reported, conducted in cooperation with the laboratories of the Engineering Experiment Station, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, concludes an investigation of the use of starch by laundries and cotton mills, and includes a study of the properties which are desired by these industries to be imparted by starch to textile fabrics, together with a description of methods and instruments which have been devised by the authors for objectively measuring these important properties.

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#### FARM STRUCTURES RESEARCH

J.P. Ditchman, Rural Electric Lighting Specialist of the General Electric Company, located at Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio, visited the Division recently and spent several days in conference with the members of the staff. He expressed great interest in the experimental work now in progress on artificial lighting of dairy stables. Accompanied by M.A.R. Kelley he visited several of the nearby barns in Maryland and the experimental barn at College Park.

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On May 16 W. V. Hukill addressed a group of students at Washington Lee High School, Arlington, Va., in one of their sessions on vocational guidance. His subject was agricultural engineering. About 30 different subjects were discussed and each student was allowed to attend the session in which he was most interested.

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On May 9 A.H. Sanner presented a paper on oil burners at Connecticut State College, Storrs, Conn.

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During a recent visit to Washington, Professor Deane G. Carter of the University of Arkansas, had several discussions with members of the Division and others regarding the work on low cost housing he has been doing in Arkansas.

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On May 13, T.A.H. Miller went to New York to observe an experimental house designed by the John B. Pierce Foundation and erected near Labanon, N.J. Their objective was to secure a house that could be built for \$1,300 to \$1,500. Several novel features were employed. Only ten 4 by 4 inch studs were used and the covering was cemesta board, consisting of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch celotex with  $1/8$  inch transite on both faces. No inside boarding was used. The walls were assembled as 2 panels for each side and raised in place. The roof was pre-assembled trusses of 2 x 4 inches which very readily set in place. Hurricane clips were used for securing the trusses to the plate. The roof sheathing was  $3/8$  inch plywood and strip asphalt shingles. A novel feature was the floor and foundation. Shallow footings 6 inches deep and 12 inches wide at grade level formed the foundation. This consisted of a 2 to 3 inch layer of 2-inch stone bonded with asphalt-stabilized earth. The floor was 3 inches thick of the same type of construction with  $1/8$ -inch of mastic as a wearing surface. The floor was laid directly on the ground. Since the soil in the vicinity was nearly 90 percent colloidal it could not be used, so stone screenings were brought in and used in the floor and the foundation. One of the tests was speed of erection; eight men erected the structural part of the house in 8 hours.

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#### FIBER FLAX INVESTIGATIONS

According to W.M. Hurst, fiber flax acreage in the Willamette Valley is the largest on record and, with favorable weather conditions, the tonnage will probably exceed mill capacity.

Experimental equipment now installed in the mills or under construction for observation in handling the 1940 crop include: Three deseeders, three double band trussers (straw binding apparatus), two seed cleaners, two tow shakers, two pullers (harvesters), and a scutcher.

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#### CHEMICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH

Dr. David J. Price left Washington for Atlantic City on May 5 to attend the annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association, which continued through May 11. Dr. Price was elected first Vice-President of the Association, which has a membership of approximately 6,000 persons, including fire protection engineers representing industries, insurance organizations, and Federal agencies in all parts of the United States and Canada.

A very important item on the Association's agenda this year was the forum for Volunteer firemen, over which Dr. Price presided. That forum was attended by rural volunteer firemen from Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, and the discussion was directed particularly toward the training of volunteer firemen in the use of rural fire-fighting apparatus in country areas.

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At the meeting of the Farm Fire Protection Committee of the National Fire Protection Association, of which Dr. Price is chairman, reports were made dealing with recent developments pertaining to fires on farms and in rural communities.

Dr. Price and Hylton R. Brown, as chairman and secretary, respectively, attended the meeting of the Dust Explosion Hazards Committee of the Association. At that meeting the safety code for the prevention of sulfur dust explosions and fires was reported in readiness for presentation to the Association for final adoption. Approval and adoption of the code followed its consideration by the Association.

Dr. Price had a conference in Washington with Mr. Walsh, a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with reference to inspection of industrial plants in connection with sabotage investigations of that Bureau.

Mr. Brown addressed the Fire Protection and Insurance Section of the Association of American Railroads at the meeting of that group in Atlantic City on May 8. The subject of his address was, "Fire and Explosion Protection at Country Grain Elevators."

On May 15, C. A. Robinson, an engineer with the Factory Insurance Association of Hartford, called to discuss with Mr. Brown his observations at a number of plants contemplating inert gas installations and dust-collecting installations for dust explosion prevention. He expressed interest also in the provisions made for preventing explosions.

R. L. Hanson spent April 15 to 18 with the staff of the Eastern Regional Laboratory, when plans were made for the arrangement of equipment and occupancy of the laboratory at Wyndmoor, Pa. An inspection was made of the construction work now in progress.

On April 30 Mr. Hanson left Washington for Chicago, where he conferred with manufacturers with reference to equipment for the Regional Laboratories. With members of the staff of the Northern Regional Laboratory at Peoria, Ill., he planned the equipment and occupancy of the new building. He also inspected the construction of the Peoria laboratory.

On April 24, B. J. Culp attended a meeting of Federal Accident Statisticians held at the Department of Labor. Consideration was given to definitions of various types of disabilities, and members present were asked to explain their ideas for the development of uniform standards in the preparation of accident and injury statistics by Federal agencies.

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#### PLANS AND SERVICE

The Division has completed during the past month contract documents and bid proposals for the following projects: Specifications and bid proposals for the Fermentation Fuels Pilot Plant of the Northern Regional Laboratory; refrigeration equipment for the Western



Regional Laboratory; laboratory equipment for the Departmental Laboratories at Beltsville, Md.; air conditioning and refrigeration for the Center Departmental laboratory at Beltsville, Md.; electric Distribution for the Service Building of the Departmental Laboratories at Beltsville, Md.; solvent storage building to be located at Beltsville, Md.; freezing equipment for the Fruit and Vegetable Products Laboratory at Weslaco, Tex.; chimney correction at the Animal Disease Station, Auburn, Ala.; Deep well pump for the Bureau of Animal Industry at Dubois, Idaho; boiler and boiler equipment for the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington, D.C.; two 40 gallon hot-water tanks for gas to be installed in the Bureau of Plant Industry Laboratory at Tucumari, N. Mex.; heating system for the greenhouses at Oxford, N.C., and Florence, S.C.; 500-gallon underground fuel oil storage tank for the Soil Conservation Service Station at Mexican Springs, N. Mex.; office and utility building for the Soil Conservation Service at Manhattan, Kans.; laboratory equipment for the Food and Drug Administration at Pittsburgh, Pa., and San Francisco, Calif. These specifications are or will be submitted to prospective bidders within the immediate future so as to enable contracts to be let during the present fiscal year.

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An effort is being made by the Division staff to settle all outstanding change orders pertaining to the various Regional Laboratories so as not to impede the progress of the work. In connection with this, an inspection tour has been arranged by the chief of the Division, Joseph A. Scott, to visit the Laboratory sites and to settle all points of differences. Messrs. Geo. T. Hemmett and H.A. Magnuson will accompany Mr. Scott on the tour of the Regional Laboratories to furnish expert advice and assistance on matters coming under their charge. Arrangements will be made during their visit for running acceptance tests on those projects which are nearing completion. This work is especially urgent in the Northern, Eastern and Western Regional Laboratories.

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Arrangements have been made with the contractor to run acceptance tests at the Eastern Regional Laboratory on the steam generation plant and all other mechanical equipment falling under the contract let to Sordoni Construction Company, general contractor for the project. These acceptance tests will not, of course, include the work being done on the pilot plant installation. It is estimated that the building will be ready for operation by the Government at the start of the 1941 fiscal year.

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Nelson E. Carr of the Division staff, who has been associated with the power plant design, has recently received an appointment as mechanical superintendent of the Eastern Regional Laboratory. Dominick Gaspari, who has been serving as Senior Electrical Draftsman with the Division, will be assigned as Chief Electrician to function under Mr. Carr. These men will form a nucleus of the operating personnel who will take over the plant on successful completion of acceptance tests. The Division is making an effort to secure high grade personnel



from various operating staffs of Government buildings now in operation. With this nucleus forming a skeletonized organization a successful operating staff can be formed.

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Cruikshank Stuart, head of the Site Planning Section of the Division, has been recently detailed to Coshocton, Ohio, where he will serve as resident engineer covering the construction of the buildings and utilities on that project.

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The Advisory Counsel for the Beltsville Cartographic Laboratory has reviewed several renderings prepared in this Division and has tentatively decided upon a fixed design. Floor plans, elevations, and preliminary structural drawings are being made and it is intended that insofar as time is available the design will be carried on to completion so that it may be ready if and when funds are available for the erection of this project.

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#### RURAL ELECTRIFICATION RESEARCH

Harry L. Garver visited the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Va., May 2 and 3, where he met with T.W. Heitz of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D.C., and Cecil Rogers of the Virginia State Department of Agriculture in conference with Director A.W. Drinkard, of the Virginia Experiment Station, Prof. C.E. Seitz and J.W. Weaver of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, V.P.I., and Prof. H.L. Moore and Dr. R.L. Bryant of the Poultry Husbandry Division, Department of Agricultural Engineering, V.P.I. The conference dealt particularly with a proposed cooperative project on egg cooling and storing.

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On May 3 and 4 Messrs. Garver and Heitz visited egg receiving and grading stations in Harrisonburg and Winchester, Va., in further study of the project.

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Truman E. Hinton, of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., spent four days, May 21-24, in Washington, conferring with officials of this Bureau on matters pertaining to rural electrification research projects.

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#### INDUSTRIAL FARM PRODUCTS RESEARCH

Dr. Nandor Forges of the Agricultural By-Products Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, presented a paper entitled "Chemical Transformations by Acetobacter" at the meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science in Mount Vernon, Iowa, on April 19 and 20.

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Dr. R.P. Straka attended a joint meeting of the North Central and Indiana branches of the Society of American Bacteriologists and the Society of Illinois Bacteriologists in Chicago on May 3 and 4.

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Dr. S.I. Aronovsky was called to Washington on May 9 on official business. He returned to Ames on May 16.

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# CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

## Recent Appointments - Indefinite or Probationary

Carol J. Haxton	Under Clerk-Typist (Hays, Kans.)	Farm Structures Res.
Knox Vaughn	Under Engin. Aide (Laurel, Miss.)	Farm Mechan. Equip.
Chauncey Wm. Smith	Agent (CC) (Lincoln, Nebr.)	" " "
Pack, Frank Carlyle	Jr. Chemist (Bogalusa, La.)	Carbohydrate Res.
Harris, Rae H.	Collaborator (Fargo, N.Dak.)	West.Reg. Res. Lab.
Sylvester T. Schicktanz	Sr. Chemist (New Orleans, La.)	South. Reg.Res. Lab.
Mrs. Frances Sparks	Jr. Stenographer( " " " )	" " " "
Anna R. Johnson	Jr.Clerk-Stenog.(Wyndmoor,Pa.)	East.Reg.Res. Lab.

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## Recent Appointments - Temporary

Patricia J. Genz	Jr. Clerk-Typist	Bus. Admin. (Files)
Pearl Dresden	" " "	Bus. Admin.
Nora Lee Woodward	" " "	Bus. Admin. (Purchase and Property)
Carl Conrad Pribek	Assoc. Architect	Plans & Service
Clara M. Fischer	Sr. Typist (St. Paul, Minn.)	West.Reg.Res. Lab.
Myra Kathlyn Jahnke	" " (Fargo, N.Dak.)	" " " "
Jacob C. Minor	Min. Sci. Helper (Bogalusa, La.)	Carbohydrate Res.
B. Mackie Adams	Laborer (Bogalusa, La.)	" "
John L. Catlett	Jr. Sugar Technologist (Meridian, Miss.)	" "

## Separations

Mrs. Ella J. Winn	Jr. Clerk-Stenog. (Stoneville, Miss.)	Cotton Ginn. Invs.
Waldo H. Kliever	Assoc. Engr. Physicist (Stoneville, Miss.)	" " "
Naomi Jeanne Wilson	Under Clerk-typist	Bus. Admin.
F. Carl. Weigelt	Asst. Architect	Plans & Service
Vincent J. O'Neil	Sr. Laborer (Geneva, N.Y.)	Food Research
Mrs. Martha F. Sipes	Jr. Clerk-Stenog.	Smelter Fumes, Invs.
Anne Marie Hearn	" " "	Reg. Res. Labs.(Admin.)